as a convenient ellipsis, without any exclusive implication.) Such contributions are human; it is absurd to say less, as it .is impossible to say more.

The Jew, in fact, is heir to a double tradition. There is the religious history of three and a half millennia, which fructified above all on the soil of Palestine, and with God's help may fructify there again. And there is the political history of the past twenty centuries, which has been associated principally with Europe, in the civilisation of which persons of Jewish birth have taken, not indeed a dominant, nor yet perhaps disproportionate share, but a share which is worthy of study and respect.

The point gains in force from a glance at the map. Palestine, the cradle of the Jewish people, is a narrow, fertile strip on the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean, between the Arabian Desert and the sea. Let us imagine for the moment that the geological upheaval which is responsible for the present configuration of that area had happened otherwise; that the desert had come down to the sea on the west of the Arabian Peninsula, as it now does on the east: but that instead, on the shores of the Indian Ocean, there were a tiny fertile area capable of human habitation, to which the Israelites had migrated from Babylonia and Egypt. Palestine would thus have faced East instead of West—towards Asia instead of towards Europe.

It is difficult to imagine any slight geological change which would have influenced the history

of mankind to quite the same extent. One may imagine that Europe would have remained Pagan, divided between the immoral deities of Borne and Greece and the blood-thirsty gods of the Teutonic Valhalla. The Latin and Greek genius would not have been fertilised by Christian religious thought. It would have lacked the unity and the force which is based in the last instance upon Semitic